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Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the Specification:

- (1) On page 1, line 16, reference numeral "3" has been changed to --5--.
- (2) On page 1, line 18, "not labeled" has been changed to --3--.
- (3) On page 3, line 25, reference numeral "1" has been deleted.
- (4) On page 4, line 18, "15b" (first occurrence) has been changed to --15a--. In the Claims:
- (1) In claim 1, line 8, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (2) In claim 1, line 9, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (3) In claim 1, line 14, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (4) In claim 1, line 15, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (5) In claim 1, line 16, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (6) In claim 1, line 22, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (7) In claim 1, line 24, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (8) In claim 1, line 25, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (9) In claim 1, line 29, "relatively" has been deleted.
- (10) Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled.

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2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Allan D. Kamrath on February 7, 2005.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 contains allowable subject matter because none of the prior art of record taken alone or in combination thereof shows or fairly suggests the claimed subject matter. The most relevant reference is to Homann (U.S. Patent No. 6,367,155) which shows a first scissor element (21') including a countersink (see Fig.7) having a larger section facing away from a second scissor element (21) and a smaller section facing the second scissor element (21), and the second scissor element (21) including a countersink (see Fig.7) having a larger section facing away from a first scissor element (21') and a smaller section facing the first scissor element (21'). Further, Homann's pivotal device includes a nut (28) and a screw (26). However, the shank of the nut (28) extends through only the smaller section of the countersink of the first scissor element (21') and does not extend through the smaller section of the countersink of the second scissor element (21, see Fig.8). Moreover, the screw hole in the nut (8) does not extend through the enlarged head of the nut.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art Citations

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure. Krouse, Ramsey, Hogg, Firth, Ketchart, Weidauer, Wiss, Wang

and Homann are cited as art of interest.

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Hwei-Siu C. Payer whose telephone number is 571-272-

4511. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to

4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone numbers

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306

for official communications and 571-273-4511 for proposed amendments.

H Payer

February 7, 2005

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